

A

# REVIEW

## OF THE

# STATE

## OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Saturday, July 26. 1707.

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**I** Think I have been making but a very just Parallel, when observing who those Wretches are, that rejoyce at the Victory of the *French* over our Army at *Almanza*, I find them to be the very same Party, that we have had so much occasion to oppose, in all the other parts of the late 18 Years Transactions.

And really, if the good People of *Britain* were but thoroughly convinc'd once, that the *French* Force Abroad, and the High-Flyers at Home were acting the very same Part, carrying on the same Interest, and pursuing the same Design with one another; it must be something infatuating from Heaven upon them, which must stand in the way, and which must hinder that they do not as one Man unite Heart and Hand against such a perjur'd Party; that they do not forthwith set to work, and root out the very

Principle from the Face of the Earth.

Why are Traytors suffer'd with Impunity to resist Government, stand in the Light of their own Countrys Prosperity, and openly side with its protest Enemies? Such Lenity is certainly a Sin against their own Safety, and as they will certainly find it so at last, I make no doubt but they will be suitably treated, and therefore as to Legal Proceeding with them I leave them to Justice, which no question will one way or other meet with them—And as my Business is only to set their Proceedings in a true Light, that the People may no more be abus'd, and their Hands weaken'd by them, I shall pursue their wicked Practice with just Reprehensions; as to their Persons, I shall desire no more, than that United *Britain* may pray as *Nebemish*, when the Enemies of the Work of GOD endeavour'd to weaken his Hands, in the

the building up the Wall of *Jerusalem*; O my God, think thou upon Tobias and Sanballat, according to these their Works, and upon the Prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the Prophets that would have put me in fear; *Nehemiah*, 6. 14. Poor *Nehemiah* was just serv'd as poor *Britannia* is now; the Mercenary High-Flying Clergy, the Prophets, and the Prophetesses rais'd ill Reports, spread false News, sent Letters to his Enemies, and tried all possible Methods, both to fright him and amuse the People; and what was the End of it all, but to weaken their Hands that the great Work of securing the Temple and fortifying *Jerusalem* might not go forward; or to put it into Language suiting the occasion, that the Church and State might not be secur'd, United together with in one mighty Circle, which like the Wall of a City might be a Legal Security to both.

And to carry on the Allusion; what was the course *Nehemiah* took, just as King *William*; he Fought, he Pray'd, *shall such a Man as I flee? No, and who is there that being as I am, would go into the Temple to save his Life? I will not go in* — *Nehemiah*, 6. 11. And see what was the Issue of his Resolution — *V. 15. So the Wall was finish'd in two and fifty Days*; Expedition and Success, was the certain Consequence of a vigorous Resolution; had *Nehemiah* been terrify'd with Rumours and Delusions of the Treacherous Prophets, their Hands had been weaken'd in the Work, and the Wall had never been finish'd, much less had it been done in 52 Days.

In short, Gentlemen, our Business is not to let our Hands be weaken'd, our People discourag'd, or the Work of *Europe's* Peace be stop'd in our Hands, for the Rumours, the false News, the discouraging Artifices of our home-bred and malicious Party-Enemies — Shall such a Nation as ours is, faint, shall Discouragements weaken our Hands, shall one Battle in *Spain* make us Despair, who in one Campaign brought down the King of *France*, to almost a Petition for Peace; who last Year refused to Treat with him, concluding that in one Year more, he would be reduc'd to a Ne-

cessity of seeking it upon harder Terms than he did before?

Besides, we ought to Examine, when we consult our Fears and Discouragements, who it is we gratify in them, and what service we do their Cause; I confess, I could spend a whole Review or two, in exclaiming against the Horrid and Unnatural Proceedings of this Party, who are always Crying WOE, WOE! are always frightening and terrifying their Neighbours with Apprehensions of their Enemies, and yet are the very Men that would have that Enemy prevail.

But I leave them to convince the World of their Scandalous Character by their Practice, and I proceed to Examine how needful it is, that we should detect, not gratify these wicked People, who would fair dispirit and discourage us upon the least disadvantage we receive; whereas the true use we should make of Disasters is to double our Force, and double our Diligence in retrieving the Loss, that the Enemy may be disappointed, in the Fruits they expect from this Great Victory.

And here I cannot but allow, the Diligence and Application of the Enemy, who have so strongly restor'd their Affairs after so total a Summer, is never to be sufficiently toll'd; and the true Reason why I am set it forth in its true Light, is, that we may be mov'd to the same Spirit under Losses, and apply ourselves to immediate healing this Ruin, by restoring the broken part of our Army.

And here appears the wide Difference between the Party we have been talking of, and all those who honestly represent Cases in a true Light, even when the Case is bad; these Act with a true Principle to move our Diligence, and quicken our Application to the Remedy; the other Act with design to weaken the Hands, to bring us into the Lethargy of Despair, and lead us into a neglect of our own Safety, as a thing desperate and not to be manag'd.

And now when all is done, tho' the Malice of the People is not at all the less, and the Party-Merit not a jot the less Resentment; yet if the People of *Britain* please to examine



mine all our Affairs, they will not find such Cause of Despondency as some imagine; and therefore, since so many Amusements are spread about, and the People are so dead-hearted and hang their Heads, it will not be amiss, I hope, to enquire into the State of Things, and see whether every thing is so bad, and whether so melancholy a Prospect lyes before us, as some People say there is; and in doing this, perhaps I may give some probable Guesses at the Success of the ensuing part of this Campaign.

It is true, that the *French* have even to admiration, almost to a Miracle, put themselves into a posture of Defence this Summer; if we were to look back upon our Accounts of his Losses, his Difficulties, his want of Cash, and innumerable Discouragements, one would have thought it should have been impossible he could have stood before the Confederates at other Summer; where he gets Men, where Money, how he could form things together again, that were so broken, so dismay'd, his Soldiers dispirited; that he should be so superior in *Flanders*, Victorious in *Spain*, Rampant on the Rhine, and well provided for Defence in *Italy*; these are strange things indeed, and what I believe some People did not Dream of; and the less they dream't of them, the more they are surpriz'd by them.

But their being recover'd very much, does not at all signify that they must be Invincible now any more than before; there is a great deal of difference, between their now being able to stand, and their former overrunning all *Europe*; there is a great difference, between their being not able to look us in the Face, and our not being able to look them in the Face; and therefore we have no Reason to be Dispirited and out of Heart.

I must confess, the *Imperial* Affairs give a great shock in this Matter, not from the Power of the *French* there, for I do not find, that even the best of their Army has amounted there to above 35000 Men, but from the weakness of the *Germans*, and that weakness not so much from real weakness of Power, as from

a supine negligence and real defect of Will.

Indeed I am sometimes tempted to acquiesce very much in the Ravages the *French* have made all along in the Empire; but this Particular reproves me in that Case, viz. That really the Destruction does not fail where the occasion is given; the Duke of *Wurtemberg*, and the Princes of *Baden*, the Elector *Palatine*, and the *Saxian* Circle suffer the Ravages; but 'tis not these, who have by their delay'd Supplies, and unfurnish'd Quotas retarded the Service, and left the Empire naked—But the Disaster falls in one place, and the Crime that occasions it falls in another; so that these are punish'd, and are Sufferers for the Errors of their Friends, a hard Chapter indeed it is, and how to Remedy it I cannot imagine; they really want a *French* Army among them every Year, to rouse up their Diligence, and set them to Work to save themselves; and thus it always was with them, that till they found the *French* in their very Bowels they would never Act Vigorously, no, not in their own Defence; and thus at the first of the Year the *French* generally did their Business, cut them out Work for the whole Summer, and then lying still, would all the Season after act upon the Defensive.

O could their People be ruin'd but alone, could they only feel the Consequences of their miserable Sloth, their unsettled, unconcerted Measures, could the Thunder of this Cloud break upon their own Heads alone, and the whole Confederacy not be at all affected with it, or weaken'd by it, I know no Eye would in the least pity them, or be concern'd for them.

But 'tis a common Cause, and it cannot be weaken'd in one Part, but it must be main'd in another; and therefore our Complaints of the backwardness and unfaithfulness of the *German* Allies is most just, and they ought to regard it; but still they must not be left to be overrun, because we are Embark'd in the same Cause, and the Advantage the Enemy has over them, is in Effect an Advantage over us.